



## **ASOS PROGRAM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**RECORD APMC 04-2 (FINAL)**

**December 7, 2004**

### **1. CONVENED - 9:00 AM**

A meeting of the ASOS Program Management Committee (APMC) was convened by Acting Chair Joe Facundo on December 7, 2004. The meeting was held in Room 4246, Silver Spring Metro Center Building 2 (SSMC-2), National Weather Service Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD.

#### **Members participating:**

Chair - Joseph Facundo  
DOC - Lee Stang  
    - Ray Downs (for Mike Campbell)  
DOD - Tim Kimbrell (for Maj. Eric McBee)  
    - Lt. Col. Michael Babcock  
DOT - Richard Thoma (for Deborah Johnson)  
ASOS PI - Richard Ahlberg, Jr.  
Ex. Sec. - Lewis Kozlosky

Advisors and/or guests included: Richard Bunevitch, Greg Dalyai, Rob Ericson, Doug Gifford, Peggy Hoch, Michael Leibelson, Anthony Leonardo, David Manaranno, Khien Nguyen, William Whisel from DOC; Don Bui, Claude Jones, Dennis Kolb, Jerry Kranz, and Vaughn Yates from DOT; and James Humphrey and Wayne Knight from DOD.

### **2. OPENING REMARKS AND PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Mr. Facundo stated that he will be Acting APMC Chair due to Doug Hess' retirement.

The June 22, 2004, corrected minutes were approved as written.

### **3. ASOS CCB REPORT**

The ASOS Configuration Control Board (ACCB) Request for Change (RC) Status Report was provided to members in their folders. No issues were raised concerning the ACCB Report.

### **4. FAA REORGANIZATION IMPACTS AND CONTINUING ASOS PROGRAM FUNDING**

Mr. Thoma provided a summary of the new FAA Headquarters and Field structure resulting from the FAA Reorganization. He indicated there is a place holder for the same FAA ASOS funding obligation as last year. Details of the new FAA Air Traffic Organization structure can be found at:

<http://www.ato.faa.gov/locator/>

### **5. NWS PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT (PI) STATUS BRIEFING**

Mr. Ahlberg summarized the PI priorities for the NWS and FAA:

#### ACU Processor Upgrade:

847 of 883 NWS/FAA sites have been approved for processor deployment, 780 have been shipped, and 718 sites have installed the processor to date.

#### Dewpoint Sensor Replacement:

841 FAA/NWS sites were approved for phased deployment with 445 installed. Four Navy sites have installed the upgraded sensor.

Sensor performance has been excellent to date. Apparent low bias at some sites during high temperature and humidity is being investigated.

#### Ice Free Wind Sensor (IFW):

The IFW has been performing well. There is a 23 site Operational Acceptance Test (OAT). The next 43 sites are being identified and coordinated. The Navy and Air Force are using NWS Modification Notes.

**The following Action was assigned:**

**Dalyai: Provide draft Mod Notes to Kimbrell (Navy) during review cycles.**

All Weather Precipitation Accumulation Gauge (AWPAG):

The OAT was completed successfully in June. To date, 267 sites are approved for deployment, and 162 have been installed.

Under-reporting during wind driven snow is being investigated.

A possible solution to prevent frog intrusion has been developed.

**The following Action was assigned:**

**Monte: Submit a Request for Change (RC) for the AWPAG frog intrusion prevention basket.**

Enhanced Precipitation Identifier:

Initial development contracts were awarded July 2003. The Commercial Off the Shelf (COTS) evaluation has shown poor performance in drizzle, and marginal performance in light rain. False reports and unknown precipitation exceeded requirements. Down-select is planned for no later than February 28, 2005.

If it stays on schedule, the OAT is planned for the summer of 2005, and deployment in FY 2006 (budget permitting).

OFCM coordination will be required.

**The following Action was assigned:**

**Ahlberg: Report EPI Upgrade progress to the APMC once a vendor is selected.**

Ceilometer Replacement:

A 25,000ft aviation requirement and a 40,000ft climate requirement are being evaluated. The COTS evaluation phase is planned for the summer of 2005. Deployment is planned to begin in November 2006.

The NWS PI funding appropriation is \$4.611 million. Planned FAA budget was \$7.5 million, now reduced to \$4.8 million with a possible additional shortfall of \$600K.

## **6. REGIONAL AND FIELD-LEVEL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MANAGEMENT OF FUTURE ASOS ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Dalyai indicated that the **National Interagency ASOS Management Conference** was postponed until mid-summer 2005 due to the FAA reorganization. It was suggested that the FAA refocus their participation more narrowly to facilitate effective preparation and participation.

**The following Action was assigned:**

**Dalyai: Look into refocused participation and agenda for the National Interagency ASOS Management Conference.**

## **7. INTERNET CONNECTIVITY**

Mr. Dalyai summarized that the proof of concept acceptance testing with Version 2.791 detected warm starts, which are being investigated. The interface did successfully connect to the data and software reservoirs.

## **8. ASOS OPERATIONS**

The status of ASOS monthly operations and maintenance was provided as handouts, but not briefed to save meeting time. Members can contact Mr. Dalyai if they have any questions pertaining to the slides provided. System Availability, Mean Time Between Failure, Mean Time Sensor Recovery, Maintenance Restoration statistics, Trouble Ticket data, and Percentage of Missed Observations are included.

## **9. USN/USMC TO NWS/FAA ASOS NORMALIZATION**

Mr. Knight reported the status of the Navy site normalization schedules through March 2005, as well as parts received to date.

The process of updating software on the processor boards vary, which is to be determined for Navy sites.

**The following Action was assigned:**

**Dalyai:** Determine if NLSC sparing of pre-loaded processor boards for DOD software upgrades is feasible and preferable.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) had instituted a new narrow band requirement (11K00F3E vs. 16K00F3). An RC will be needed to accommodate this change. The purpose of the RC will be to propose a modification to the ASOS software that will allow selectable ASOS communication data rates. This will provide ASOS the capability to adapt to changes imposed by the NTIA Narrowband Frequency Mandate. The mandate affects operational bandwidth and communication data rates of RF devices currently in use and those available on the market.

**The following Action was assigned:**

**Monte:** Submit an RC to propose a modification to the ASOS software that will allow selectable ASOS communication data rates due to the new narrow band requirement from NTIA.

The procedures for shipping PI sensors to the Navy were discussed.

**The following Action was assigned:**

**Kimbrell:** Contact Rick Ahlberg to determine whether the Navy wants full or partial shipping of PI sensors.

#### **10. ASOS SOFTWARE WORKING GROUP (ASWG)**

Mr. Facundo summarized that the ASWG has not been meeting on a regular basis, and indicated that it needs to be determined whether it should be disbanded or revitalized.

Pending software loads are 2.79, 2.80, 3.00, and 3.20.

Mr. Ahlberg indicated the ASWG has not generated RCs to properly document the pending major software releases. Mr. Kozlosky added that the ASWG should be revitalized and maintained at least through the release of the Version 3.0 RC.

**The following action was assigned:**

**Facundo:** Contact Mike Campbell to revitalize the ASWG so software release RCs for existing changes can be developed and submitted.

## **11. NATIONAL GUIDANCE FOR REDEPLOYMENT/TRANSFER OF ASOS ASSETS**

Mr. Mannarano summarized that processes for managing uninstalled systems needs to be determined and documented. Mr. Facundo indicated that this would apply to RCs where assets are made available and/or sponsorship changes. The ACCB should make the determination when these types of RCs would be elevated to the APMC for consideration.

Mr. Kozlosky cited the specific example of the former Caliente, NV, ASOS which has been removed but not returned to the National Reconditioning Center for refurbishment and restocking. The APMC ordered the revision of the RC (AB095) to reflect the return of the former Caliente system to NRC for refurbishment.

## **12. ACTION ITEMS**

Mr. Kozlosky summarized the status of Action Items:

**APMC 02-3.2A Gifford - Provide Algorithm updates as plain language as software releases occur. REVISION (of APMC 02-3.2) 5/13/03; PENDING 11/4/03; PENDING 6/22/04; PENDING 12/7/04 - To be placed on future APMC Agendas for discussion.**

**APMC 03-1.1: Heuwinkel/Thoma - Provide a decision on what options to implement in order to meet FAA funding shortfalls. Due: 5/28/03; PENDING 11/4/03; PENDING 6/22/04; CLOSED 12/7/04 (for 2003/2004)**

**APMC 04-1.1: Facundo - Provide a report identifying which sites have received the new Dewpoint sensor. NEW 6/22/04; CLOSED 12/7/04 (To be posted on the web.)**

**APMC 04-1.2: Dombrowsky - Contact Greg Mandt on membership of the ACCB, APMC, and ASWG. NEW 6/22/04; CLOSED 12/7/04**

**APMC 04-2.1: Dalyai - Provide draft Mod Notes to Kimbrell (Navy) for review. NEW 12/7/04**

**APMC 04-2.2: Monte - Submit a Request for Change (RC) for the AWPAG frog intrusion prevention basket. NEW 12/7/04**

APMC 04-2.3: Ahlberg - Report EPI Upgrade progress to the APMC once a vendor is selected. NEW 12/7/04

APMC 04-2.4: Dalyai - Look into refocused participation and agenda for the National Interagency ASOS Management Conference. NEW 12/7/04

APMC 04-2.5: Dalyai - Determine if NLSC sparing of pre-loaded processor boards for DOD software upgrades is feasible and preferable. NEW 12/7/04

APMC 04-2.6: Monte - Submit an RC to propose a modification to the ASOS software that will allow selectable ASOS communication data rates due to the new narrow band requirement from NTIA. NEW 12/7/04

APMC 04-2.7: Kimbrell - Contact Rick Ahlberg to determine whether the Navy wants full or partial shipping of PI sensors. NEW 12/7/04

APMC 04-2.8: Facundo - Contact Mike Campbell to revitalize the ASWG so software release RCs for existing changes can be developed and submitted. NEW 12/7/04

### 13. NEXT MEETING

The proposed date for the next APMC is April 12, 2005. Time and location: 9:00 to 1:00, Room 4246 in Building SSMC2, National Weather Service Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD.
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### 14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chair offered members the opportunity to convene an Executive Session. The committee members declined.

15. ADJOURN - The APMC adjourned at 1:05 p.m.